

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 04271 010815Z

14

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 NASA-04 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1423

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA

SUBJ: DRAFT AGREEMENT FOR NASA AEROBEE SOUNDING ROCKET CAMPAIGN
AT WOOMERA

REF: STATE 096986

1. GEOFF ALLEN, DFA ACTION OFFICER ON SUBJECT AGREEMENT,
HAS PROVIDED EMBOFF WITH FOLLOWING SUGGESTED CHANGES IN DRAFT
TEXT:

A) DELETE "THE COMMONWEALTH OF" FROM PHRASE THE COMMONWEALTH
OF AUSTRALIA WHEREVER IT APPEARS IN DRAFT TEXT. COMMENT:
DELETION OF THE WORD COMMONWEALTH IS CONSISTENT WITH CURRENT
GOVERNMENT'S PROCLIVITY TO REFER SIMPLY TO THE AUSTRALIAN
GOVERNMENT RATHER THAN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
AUSTRALIA.

B) DELETE IN SECOND PARA OF DRAFT TEXT PROVIDED PARA 2
REFTEL PHRASE "AS MAY BE MUTUALLY AGREED" AND SUBSTITUTE
"TO WHICH THE TWO GOVERNMENTS GIVE THEIR CONSENT". COMMENT:
THIS CHANGE WAS INITIATED APPARENTLY TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT
GOVERNMENTAL AS OPPOSED TO AGENCY-LEVEL APPROVAL WOULD BE
REQUIRED FOR FUTURE PROGRAMS UNDER PROPOSED AGREEMENT.

C) SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING PHRASEOLOGY FOR THE FIRST
PORTION OF THE FIRST SENTENCE OF PARA 3 DRAFT TEXT: "IT IS
PROPOSED THAT THE SPECIFIC NUMBER, CHARACTER, PURPOSE AND
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PAGE 02 CANBER 04271 010815Z

SCHEDULE OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTS TO BE PERFORMED AS PART OF

THE PROGRAM, THE ALLOCATION OF TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY WITH RESPECT TO THE LAUNCHINGS, THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS IN RELATION TO THE PROGRAM, THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR ROCKET LAUNCHING, TRACKING AND TELEMETERING OF INFORMATION FROM EACH ROCKET, THE RECORDING AND SHARING OF INFORMATION FROM EACH ROCKET AND THE PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PROGRAM BE AGREED UPON BY THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION..." COMMENT: THE ADDITIONAL WORDS AT THE END OF THE FOREGOING WERE ADDED TO REFLECT IN THE AGREEMENT THE UNDERSTANDING ABOUT SHARING AND PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS PROGRAM AS CONTAINED IN THE IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPT. OF SUPPLY AND NASA. TO THE EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, THIS DOES NOT INVOLVE A CHANGE IN SUBSTANCE EITHER TO THE AGREEMENT OR TO THE ARRANGEMENT BUT MERELY REPRESENTS AN EMPHASIS BY AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES OF THEIR DESIRE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM THE PROGRAM.

2. WHILE APOLOGIZING FOR THE TWO-MONTH'S TIME IT HAS TAKEN FOR A GOA RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSED TEXT, ALLEN INDICATED THAT IF THE ABOVE CHANGES ARE ACCEPTABLE, HE WOULD PROCEED WITH ALL DUE HASTE TO OBTAIN GOA APPROVAL TO CONCLUDE THIS AGREEMENT. HE SUGGESTED THAT THIS AGREEMENT WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE TO BE PUT BEFORE THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT WHICH DOES NOT RECONVENE UNTIL AUGUST 21. INSTEAD, HE BELIEVES APPROVAL FOR CONCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENT COULD BE OBTAINED THROUGH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WHICH MEETS PERIODICALLY TO CONSIDER SUCH MATTERS.
HARROP

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